

SENATE BILL 635
By Ford J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 50, relative to use of the drug ritalin in schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 50, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The general assembly recognizes and supports the recommendation of the special study committee on the usage and effects of ritalin and other amphetamines, that a statewide task force comprised of parents, teachers, school administrators and health organizations, psychiatrists, managed care organizations, TennCare officials and other necessary medical professionals be created to discuss and resolve matters relative to the usage of ritalin in schools.

(b) Pursuant to such recommendation, a local education agency shall not permit an employee or person under contract with the local education agency to recommend the use of psychotropic drugs to treat children enrolled in elementary or secondary schools, until such task force has been formed and has issued a report to the general assembly regarding the use of psychotropic drugs to treat students with behavioral disorders.

(c) Psychotropic drugs are defined as prescription medications for behavioral or social-emotional concerns, such as attention deficits, impassivity, anxiety, depression and thought disorders. Psychotropic drugs include such medications as ritalin, adderal, dexadrine and other stimulant medication and anti-depressants.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a school's medical staff from recommending appropriate medical evaluation of a child with the student's parent's or legal guardian's consent.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2003, the public welfare requiring it.